

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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**Contact: CVEO 4 Robert Petersen
(360) 753-0289**

Cle Elum Truck Check Finds Defective Brakes

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that a recent commercial motor vehicle brake check on low-slung trailers took place at the Cle Elum Scale. Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) personnel from the Washington State Patrol inspected 32 auto transporter, hay hauler, moving van, and low-boy type trailers. A total of 12 vehicles/drivers or 38% were placed out of service.

Defective brakes were the number one reason for being placed out of service, with 32 found to be out of adjustment or defective. A total of 84 violations were noted during the 14-hour emphasis.

Inspectors utilized the open inspection pit to perform inspections on the undercarriage of the trailers. These types of trailers are difficult to inspect on a normal road surface, as there is minimal clearance under the trailer, not leaving enough room for inspectors to check critical brake components.

Division Commander Captain Frederick R. Fakkema stated, "These trailers are often not checked because inspectors are not able to get under them due to their low profile. This emphasis showed a real need for continued inspections of this type of equipment."

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